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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Soviet Biological Warfare Research

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- Q. Please comment on the type of research engaged in by any of the scientists associated now or in the past with the Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, IMENI GAMALEYA, Moscow, with particular reference to biological warfare possibilities.
- A. 1. I regret to say that the only specific comment that I can make with regard to the list of scientists is to note, with considerable surprise, that the list does not include the name of I Rapoport, who has been doing considerable work in the past on mutations. The work which he has been doing on controlled modification of pathogenic organisms is right in the BW groove, so to speak.
2. For example, let us take a particular microbe which causes a serious disease or illness. If this microbe, or this microbe's strain, can be changed slightly so as to resist all known cures but still retain the capacity for causing the disease or illness, the results are quite serious and extremely significant from a biological warfare standpoint.
3. [redacted] /July 1949/ Rapoport has been connected with the Institute of Organic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Moscow and has been working with simple organic compounds to produce an abnormal number of mutations in simple organisms, such as fruit flies. So far as I know, Rapoport is the first to study and experiment with such simple organic chemicals for this purpose, and we cannot help but assume that his eminently successful experiments have been, or certainly could have been, translated into similar results with the common run of bacteria to produce variants which may well be resistant to the common methods of treatment.

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